

Serial No. 10/784,199

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

Attorney Docket No. 15-046-RCE

APR 22 2008

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all previous versions, and listings of claims in the present application.

1. to 5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A power supply device for supplying electric power to an electrical circuit, the power supply device comprising:

a power source;

a voltage comparator connected to the power source for comparing a divided voltage proportional to a voltage of the power source with a predetermined reference voltage and for outputting a control signal when the ~~power source~~ divided voltage is higher than the reference voltage;

a voltage booster for boosting the power source voltage to a predetermined voltage level, the voltage booster being disposed between the power source and the electrical circuit, the voltage booster comprising a booster coil, a booster switch for switching current flowing through the booster coil at a high speed, and a rectifying diode for allowing current to flow only in one direction from the booster coil to the electrical ~~current~~ circuit;

a protecting switch disposed in the voltage booster for disconnecting the electrical circuit ~~from~~ from the power source when the control signal is supplied from the voltage comparator, thereby protecting the electrical circuit from overvoltage,

wherein the protecting switch also functions as the rectifying diode in the voltage booster.

Serial No. 10/784,199

Attorney Docket No. 15-046-RCE

7. to 14. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) The power supply device as in claim 6, wherein the protecting switch is disposed between the ~~voltage~~ booster coil and the electrical circuit.

15. (Previously Presented) An airbag system for use in an automotive vehicle, the airbag system having an airbag to be inflated with gas upon detection of a collision and an igniting circuit for igniting a device for generating the gas, wherein electrical power is supplied from the power supply device defined in claim 6 to the igniting circuit.

16. (Currently Amended) The power supply device as in claim 6 20, wherein at least one of the first divider resistor and the second divider resistor is a variable resistor.

17. (Previously Presented) The power supply device as in claim 6, further comprising a reference voltage source for providing the reference voltage.

18. (Previously Presented) The power supply device as in claim 17, wherein the reference voltage source is a variable voltage battery.

19. (Canceled)

20. (New) The power supply device as in claim 6, further comprising:
a first divider resistor connected between the power source and a divider node; and
a second divider resistor connected between the divider node and ground,

Serial No. 10/784,199

Attorney Docket No. 15-046-RCE

wherein the divided voltage is provided at the divider node.

21. (New) The power supply device as in claim 6, wherein the protecting switch comprises:

a first FET switch having a first parasitic diode; and

a second FET switch having a second parasitic diode, the second FET switch being in series with the first FET switch,

wherein the control signal is provided to both the first and second FET switches, and

wherein the first FET switch and the second FET switch are connected so that the first parasitic diode is connected in a different direction from the second parasitic diode.